

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDE-00 /060 W
-----101904Z 113947 /42

P 101157Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7205

S E C R E T GENEVA 3560

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: RW (MDW)
SUBJ: RW (MDW): RS(MDW) CW/BILATERALS WITH SOVIETS: GENEVA
MESSAGE NO 2.

REF: STATE 104896

1. SUMMARY: FIRST MEETING OF US AND SOVIET WORKING GROUPS
ON RW(MDW)/CW TOOK PLACE MAY 9. SOVIET REP AGREED TO LIMIT
IMMEDIATE DISCUSSION OF MDW TO RW AND HEAR US VIEWS. HOWEVER,
HE EMPHASIZED THAT SOVIET OBJECTIVE IN WORKINGGROUP
DISCUSSION IS TO ACHIEVE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY TO MOVE
AHEAD ON PROHIBITION OF MDW IN GENERAL AND PURSUE COMPLETE
AGREEMENT IN CCD. HE SOUGHT TO CHARACTERIZE DISCUSSIONS
AS "NEGOTIATIONS." END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST MEETING OF RW (MDW/CW WORKING GROUP OPENED AT
SOVIET MISSION, GENEVA, AT 3:15 PM, MAY 9, 1977.

3. SOVIET AMB LIKHATCHEV OPENED MEETING WITH INTRODUCTIONS
(LIST PROVIDED SEPTEL) AND ESTABLISHED PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR ROTATION OF MEETINGS AND CHAIRMEN. IT WAS AGREED THAT
SECOND MEETING WOULD BE HELD AT US MISSION AT 3 PM,
MAY 10, AND WOULD TAKE UP SUBJECT OF RW. LIKHATCHEV NOTED
THAT AGENDA SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE AND HE DID NOT OBJECT TO
DISCUSSING SPECIFICS OF RW; HOWEVER, SOVIET APPROACH WAS TO
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ENGAGE IN "NEGOTIATIONS" AIMED AT CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT
ON MDW IN CCD. HE ALSO SAID THAT CW AND MDW EXPERTS HAD BEEN
AVAILABLE IN GENEVA SINCE MAY 3, WHICH WAS DATE SOVIETS
UNDERSTOOD BILATERAL MEETINGS WOULD BEGIN.

4. IN WHAT HE CALLED PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS (AT LEAST AS
VAGUE AS PAST ARGUMENTS ON MDW PROPOSAL, LIKHATCHEV EXERCISED

SOVIET DRAFT AGREEMENT ON MDW AND SUGGESTED THAT OBJECTIVES OF BILATERAL MEETINGS COULD BE TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA TO BE USED FOR SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF THE DEFINITION OF WHAT WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE AND WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER AN AGREEMENT.

5. LIKHATCHEV MADE MUCH OF POINT THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (NOT NAMED) IN CCD WERE IN FAVOR OF SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE MDW PROBLEM WHILE OTHERS WERE NOT YET SUPPORTING IT. HE APPEALED TO THE US DEL TO USE THE CURRENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY TO MOVE AHEAD ON PROHIBITION OF MDW AND COMPLETE AN AGREEMENT IN THE CCD.

6. US REP BUCHHEIM IN RESPONDING TO SOVIET STATEMENT, EMPHASIZED THAT IN US VIEW THESE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON MDW OR ANYTHING ELSE AND THAT THE US SIDE WOULD MAINLY LIMIT ITS COMMENTS TO RW. FOR A GENERAL US VIEW ON RW, HE REFERRED TO US STATEMENT AT UNGA NOV 18, 1976, SUGGESTING THAT CCD OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FORUM CONSIDER AN AGREEMENT TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS AS RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

7. LIKHATCHEV NOTED THAT US PREFERRED TO DISCUSS LEAST-EXPLORED NARROW SUBJECT WHILE SOVIET APPROACH TO MDW WAS BROADER, BUT SAID SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO THE US VIEWS ON RW. HE AGAIN REFERRED TO PAST DISCUSSIONS IN CCD AND US/USSR BILATERALS ON MDW AND SAID SOVIETS DESIRED FRANK DISCUSSION WITH US ON QUESTIONS ALREADY DISCUSSED IN CCD AND TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE APPROACH TO NEGOTIATION OF AN MDW
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AGREEMENT. LIKHATCHEV INDICATED INTEREST IN HAVING US VIEWS OF RW AS IT RELATES TO MDW AGREEMENT IN NEXT MEETING (MAY 10).

8. BUCHHEIM CONFIRMED USG CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO DEVELOP SUBJECT OF RW IN CCD AND SAID THAT FUTURE US/USSR BILATERAL WORKING GROUP TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH CCD SESSIONS.

9. BUCHHEIM REMINDED LIKHATCHEV OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN AUGUST 1976 BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA BETWEEN LIKHATCHEV AND AMB MARTIN THAT SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL DID NOT CONTEMPLATE ANY APPLICATION OR REFERENCE TO SYSTEMS THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN SALT. IN VIEW OF STRONG EMPHASIS IN SALT ON DELIVERY SYSTEMS, US HAD QUESTION ABOUT APPROPRIATENESS OF SOVIET SIDE INCLUDING REFERENCE TO DELIVERY SYSTEMS IN CCD DISCUSSIONS OF MDW PROPOSAL. SOVIET REP IN CCD SESSION, MARCH 1977, HAD CITED "AEROSPACE" DELIVERY VEHICLES AS AN EXAMPLE OF NEW SYSTEMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AND HAD MENTIONED SPACE SHUTTLE AS SUCH A TYPE OF DELIVERY VEHICLE. BUCHHEIM POINTED OUT

THAT US SIDE HAD NOT RAISED THIS SUBJECT IN CCD DISCUSSIONS, BUT CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO RAISE IT AS A QUESTION IN PRESENT MORE PRIVATE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN VIEW OF LIKHATCHEV/MARTIN UNDERSTANDING. BUCHHEIM EMPHASIZED THAT US SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM IS NOT IN ANY WAY A WEAPON DELIVERY SYSTEM AND IS NOT, THEREFORE, A SALT ITEM; HOWEVER, SOVIET INCLUSION IN CCD DISCUSSIONS OF DELIVERY VEHICLES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THEIR MDW PROPOSAL RAISED A QUESTION WHICH LIKHATCHEV MAY WISH TO ADDRESS IN DESCRIBING SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL MORE FULLY. LIKHATCHEV ACKNOWLEDGED HIS AGREEMENT WITH AMB MARTIN AND AGREED THAT THIS IS ONE EXAMPLE OF MDW TOPICS ON WHICH SIDES MUST EXCHANGE VIEWS. HE SUGGESTED EXPERTS COULD PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ON OTHER MDW ITEMS AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE DETAILS FROM US SIDE. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, MDW, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA03560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1038
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770575/aaaacnae.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1055c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 104896
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2587056
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RW (MDW): RS(MDW) CW/BILATERALS WITH SOVIETS: GENEVA MESSAGE NO 2.
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, (MDW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1055c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009